

From: Bobowski, Eamon
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 11/16/01 6:33pm
Subject: The Settlement Doesn't Address Market Dumping

Dear Department of Justice,

You obviously don't have a clue as to how the high-tech marketplace works if you think that the proposed settlement will "eliminate Microsoft's illegal practices, prevent recurrence of the same or similar practices and restore the competitive threat" the company faces from rivals.

I will leave the detailed arguments to people better versed in these types of legal discussions, but as someone who works in the industry I can assure you that I for one don't believe that this settlement is an effective remedy. The long and the short of it is this: Without the leverage of the Windows operating system, many if not most of Microsoft's inferior freestanding products would have long since failed, and the honest companies creating competing products would actually be able to sell their products at a profit and continue the cycle of investment and invention.

Instead, you have a never-ending cycle of small start-up companies who take their products to market and are systematically squashed by free products from Microsoft. This 1) discourages innovation and entrepreneurialism, 2) discourages venture capital investment, 3) concentrates wealth and power rather than distributes it, 4) discourages economic expansion and 5) winnows the ranks of companies who can go into the global marketplace and help bring foreign dollars back home.

This is market dumping! The Japanese did it to us in the late 70's & 80's and America raised holy hell. Microsoft does it to us in the late 90's & 00's and America turns it's back on us. I think the real problem here is that the justice department fails to recognize the similarities between VCRs, cars and software. Telling Microsoft that it has to allow other companies to put their free software on the desktop, does not address that the software should not have to be free to compete with Microsoft in the first place.

Hire some people who understand how the world really works.

Eamon Bobowski
American Taxpayer